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SPEECH BY
THE HONORABLE CYRUS R. VANCE
SECRETARY OF STATE
BEFORE
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COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
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"MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING WORLD"

From the first days of our nation, Americans have held a staunch optimism about the future. We have been a self-confident people, certain about our ability to shape our destiny.

And we are a people who have not only adapted well to change, we have thrived on it.

We are now living in a period of history marked by deep and rapid change. Tonight, I want to talk about change, and how America can use its extraordinary strength to meet the challenges of a changing world.

America's optimism has been jarred in recent years -- by a bitter war; by domestic divisions that tested our democratic institutions and left many of our people skeptical about government; by the sudden awareness that our economic life at home can be shaped by actions abroad; and by the realization that there are events which affect us but which we can only partly influence.